



Washington State
Department of
Health

Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family
Therapists, and
Social Workers
Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2007
Department of Health
Creekside Three at Center Point
Second Floor, Room 1
20435 72nd Ave South
Kent, WA 98032

Committee Members Present

Susan Bogni, Public Member, Chair; Philip Brown, LICSW, LMFT, Ph.D., Carl Greenberg, LMFT, Alison Hadley, LICSW, Lisa Erickson, LMHC, Vice-Chair, Joseph Price, LMFT, LMHC, Ph.D.

Committee Members Absent

Judy Roberts, LMHC, Joyce Gaidies, Public Member

Staff Present

Bob Nicoloff, Executive Director
Betty Moe, Program Manager

AAG PRESENT:

Elizabeth Baker, Assistant Attorney General

Agenda Topics

OPEN SESSION – 9:00 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER – Susan Bogni, Public Member, Chair

9:00 a.m.

- 1.1 The meeting was called to order by Susan Bogni, Public Member, Chair at 9:05 am.
The agenda was amended to include additional discussion of the following:
 - approved supervisors
 - equally qualified definition
 - meet me callsItem 8 (registered counselor update) was moved to 11:00
- 1.2 The meeting minutes from September 15, 2006 were approved.
- 1.3 The meeting minutes from November 3, 2006 were approved.

2. LICENSED COUNSELOR BROCHURE- Carl Greenberg and Alison Hadley

Committee members reviewed and approved the brochure. The brochure will be available in the customer service center, and also place on the Department of Health website. The committee would like continue reviewing the brochure to increase its usefulness.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT RULES

Susan Bogni previously on the sexual misconduct rules sub-committee elected to remove herself, nominating Joyce Gaidies in her place. This decision was due to time constraint of weekly meet me calls that Susan Bogni has been joining in since the beginning of the legislative session.

A rules writing workshop is scheduled for February 27, 2007 from 2:00-4:00 pm, at the Department of Health, 101 Israel Road Southeast, Tumwater, Washington 98501.

4. PROGRAM REPORTS- Program Staff

- 4.1 Program Manager Report
The interim operating reports were discussed for all three professions. At the end of November program balances were as follows:

Marriage and Family Therapists	\$202,274
Mental Health Counselors	\$ 13,212
Social Workers (LASW & LICSW)	\$228,839

Budget issues will be discussed in May with the Department of Health budget analyst.

- 4.2 Executive Director Report
Mr. Nicoloff announced that Holly Rawnsley would not be returning from maternity leave, and Betty Moe would be the new program manager.
- 4.3 Licensing Report
Committee members reviewed licensing statistics provided by Betty Moe, Program Manager. Statistics presented were a reflection of current licensees as of January 26, 2007.

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists

Statistics are as follows:

Total active licenses	983
Total pending applications	48
Total Expired	188

Licensed Mental Health Counselors

Statistics are as follows:

Total active licenses	4,256
Total pending applications	153
Total Expired	759

Licensed Social Workers

Statistics are as follows:

Total active licenses	2,970
Total pending applications	256
Total Expired	536

Betty Moe discussed changes in application review related to supervision of Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Independent Clinical Social workers that have not be credentialed in Washington for five years.

In order to meet the requirements of chapter 18.225.090 RCW, supervisors must submit verification of experience with the licensure candidate's verification of postgraduate experience supervision forms, indicating the proper years experience.

4.4 Disciplinary Report

The committee members reviewed the disciplinary statistics provided by Tammy Kelley, Disciplinary Manager, the statistics presented were a reflection of case load as of January 22, 2007

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists

Statistics are as follows:

Investigation:	9
SOA waiting for response	1
Adjudication Process	3

TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES: 13

Licensed Mental Health Counselors

Statistics are as follows:

Investigation:	23
Case Disposition:	17
STID – Signed/Present:	1
SOC-Receive Response	1
Adjudication Process	2

TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES: 44

Licensed Social Workers

Statistics are as follows:

Investigation:	8
Case Disposition	9
SOA-Receive Response	1
Adjudication Process	6

TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES: 24

TOTAL NUMBER OF ALL OPEN CASES 81

4.5 Committee Appointments

- Currently recruiting one public member
- Alison Hadley's and Susan Bogni's terms will be expiring effective July 2007. The committee will need a LASW and additional public member.
- Recruitment Notice was sent out via listserv at the end of December and will be sent again in February.

4.6 Correspondence

Committee members were provided with the following documents for review:

- The Advocate Volume 31, Issue 4, Winter 2006
- Newsletter of the Association of Social Work Boards October 2006, Volume 16, No.5
-

5. SOCIAL WORK REGISTRY PRIMARY SOURCE VERIFICATION-

Committee members reviewed documents from the Social Work Registry to make a determination on the credibility relating to certified application documentation. The committee believes the Social Work

Registry Primary Source verification would be beneficial to the program and the ability to get applicants from other states licensed effectively in Washington.

6. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT-Elizabeth Baker, AAG

Ms. Elizabeth Baker, AAG provided the following information regarding her reports:

- At this time, she was not able to report on Unethical/unprofessional acronyms. Mark Calkins, AAG is currently working on the issue with the Board of Hearing and Speech. Ms. Baker is waiting on their determination to report.
- Ms. Baker discussed an Educational Staff Associate (ESA) Continuing Level Counselor, Certified by Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction providing supervision to individuals who intended to be licensed in Washington as social workers. She explained, under RCW 18.225 and WAC 246-809-320, social worker applicants may have a certain number of their required supervision hours supervised by “an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.” WAC 246-809-310 defines “equally qualified” as meaning “a licensed mental health counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed psychologists, licensed physician practicing as a psychiatrist, or licensed psychiatric nurse practitioner.” If the Educational Staff Associate (ESA) from whom the applicant is seeking supervision does not hold one of these licenses, the hours supervised by the ESA would not count toward the applicant’s supervision requirement. This is required by statute and can’t be amended by the Department of Health opening the WAC for amendment.

7. UPDATE OF THE AASCB CONFERENCE-Lisa Erickson, Vice-Chair

(This section included a working lunch for members of the committee)

- Committee members reviewed the National Counseling Registry (NCR) forms provided by Lisa Erickson. The NCR forms are comparable to the forms provided by the Social Work Registry. Committee believes that accepting verification from the National Counseling Registry would facilitate in portability of counselors. The committee believes that verification from NCR should be accepted in lieu of transcripts, verification of supervision, and verification of examination.
- The National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) has begun administering exams electronically. Committee members discussed the examination process and believe it would be beneficial to move towards computer based testing. Betty Moe, Program Manager has been in contact with Deana Perdicho regarding the examination and will work on modifying the states contract with the NBCC.
- CACREP curriculum standards are being modified following hurricane Katrina. The standards are being revised to include disaster counseling. At some point, it may be beneficial to revise the WAC to include disaster preparedness counseling.
- Committee members discussed WAC 246-809-220-Education requirements for Licensed Mental Health Counselors. The committee reviewed the WAC focusing on the following: an applicant must possess a master's or doctoral degree in mental health counseling or a behavioral science master's or doctoral degree in a field relating to mental health counseling from an approved school.

In the time that Ms. Erickson was at the AASCB conference she learned that twelve states require a master's or doctoral degree in professional counseling or related field from an accredited college/university, consisting of 48 graduate semester hours. 36 states require the completion of 60 semester (or 90 quarter hours within the graduate counseling/therapy program coursework.

Washington doesn't require a number of credit hours. The committee determined that it is necessary to look at national standard to see how Washington State is measuring up and looks at national trends.

Floyd Else expressed that it's important to increase our exports (students). The Department of Health's role is to protect the people of the state of Washington, and increasing standards will protect the people of Washington.

The committee moved that the Department do the necessary research to move forward with the WAC change to review/revise the number of credit hours and curriculum content.

8. REGISTERED COUNSELOR UPDATE- Robert Nicoloff, Health Professions Section Seven, Executive Director, will provide an update on the issues regarding registered counselors.

The licensed counselor advisory committee spent over an hour reviewing the registered counselor bills - department request bill HB 1494 and licensed counselor association bill HB 1993. Laura Groshong, association lobbyist, was present and provided an overview on the association bill.

The committee feedback is listed below:

- They prefer the definition of therapeutic counseling in the department request bill because it is more specific, because it clarifies exempted categories, and because it exempts work not performed for a fee. (As a side note, Laura Groshong mentioned to the committee that the removal of the exempted categories in their bill was an oversight and wasn't intentional.)
- Rather than having Counseling Associate as a permanent credential for registered counselors with a bachelors degree as would be established in the department request bill, they prefer the association bill approach of using the Counselor Associate credential as a temporary credential for moving current registered counselors with degrees to a master level counseling license over the next six years. In effect they agreed with the association that ultimately that there should not be any counselors in private practice who do not have a minimum of a masters degree, and that the association bill would move our state in that direction.
- They strongly disagree with using the title "intern" for the pre-license credential categories for social worker, marriage and family, and mental health. The term intern is used in all education settings for individuals who are in the process of obtaining their degrees, and those who will have the pre-license credential under the new framework will already have masters degrees. Consequently, calling the pre-licensure credential an intern will confuse the public, and also be viewed as a bit of a slight to those who already have their masters degree. The committee couldn't all agree on an alternative term at the meeting, but did all agree that intern should not be used.

Based on the above, the committee recommended that the Secretary support HB 1993 but only after replacing the definition of therapeutic counseling and exemptions with the HB 1494 language and replacing the term intern for the pre-license categories.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-Susan Bogni, Public Member Chair

Discussion and development of future meeting agenda items

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-Susan Bogni, Public Member Chair

- Budget Issue and projections
- Presentation from Judy Roberts on closed disciplinary cases
- Update from Elizabeth Baker on unethical/unprofessional acronyms
- Election of new Chair/Vice-Chair
- Sexual Misconduct Rules Update
- Disciplinary Report including statistics on Registered Counselors

10. Adjournment – The Committee meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm

Submitted by:

Betty Moe, Program Manager
Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists
and Social Worker Advisory Committee

Approved by:

Susan Bogni, Public Member, Chair
Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists
and Social Worker Advisory Committee